

Ecclesiastes 6:10-12

We're studying today in the book of Ecclesiastes, and this is actually a continuation of Chapter 6 on "It's a Good Life." We're going to pick our study up with verse 10 of Chapter 6. I would remind you, if it's at all possible, please have a Bible open and read along as we look at these verses. It's very important for us to realize that, even though we hear the Word of God, it's also good to see the Word of God, so I would remind you to open the Word of God and read along. As I read, I'm reading from the King James Version of the Bible. I believe this is the best version that is in existence today, that is the King James Bible for those people who are saved and those people who are not saved. They can see the plan of salvation there and realize that God wants them to know Him personally, and we get to know God personally through Jesus Christ, first of all, by receiving Him as Savior and then by getting into His Word, by listening to the Word of God.

Now, as I look back in our previous study, I want to look at verse 9 once again, and it says, *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.* I believe what it's saying here, it's better to have something that is real that can be seen than simply to wish for something you don't have. This is talking about something material now. Only wishing for something without taking action to get it is worthless and only produces frustration. We see a lot of this in our world today. People are frustrated and they want something for nothing. That is one of the downfalls, I believe, that's going to happen to the United States of America. People are getting things for nothing and some people who want something for nothing, and they get so frustrated that they're willing to go out and steal; they're willing to kill, to murder; they're willing to do anything

in order to have something other than working for it. I'm talking about legitimate work. I'm not talking about being a thief or something like that. I'm talking about that we shouldn't be sitting around wishing for something, daydreaming, but we need to take action and that action is legitimate work, working for what we want, working for what we need.

As we continue our study, let's look in verses 10-12 of Ecclesiastes Chapter 6. I believe it's saying here riches cannot change the vanity of life, the worthlessness. ¹⁰*That which has been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.* ¹¹*Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?* ¹²*For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?* In other words, on the Earth.

In the past, a name was given and that name is "man," according to these verses... man. We understand that if we go back and read in Genesis how that man was created. God created the first man and this is what we see in our lives today. We look at people and actually we were created by God, and as we look at man today... and I'm speaking of mankind... man is weak and is not capable of competing with God, according to verse 10 here. You're no match for God as a human being.

Also, no matter what one becomes, he is still man. As hard as a person tries to rise above being a man, he's still a man. Some people think that they're above God. Well, that's what the devil said. He says, "I'll be greater than God. I'll be as God, and I'll be greater than God." Remember back in the Garden of Eden,

this is how the devil tempted Eve. He said, "You'll be as gods if you eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil," and this was a temptation for the woman and also the man to be as God or greater than God, and the devil himself said, "I'm going to be greater than God."

Well, no matter what one becomes, he is still man, unable to contend with God, and before the fall, man... this is male and female... they were called "man." In Genesis 2:7, it says, *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Genesis 1:26-27: ²⁶*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.* ²⁷*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Then, after the fall, Eve was named but not until after the fall. When Adam chose to sin, when he chose to do contrary to what God said and Eve did the same thing, it was after the fall that Eve was named, not before. In Genesis 3:20 it says, *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

Some translate verse 10 of Ecclesiastes chapter 6 like this: "What there is its name is named long ago and known and that is man." In other words, "what hath been and is" not only came into existence long ago... Ecclesiastes Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 talk about this, but also has been known and named and is acknowledged that it... besides other things, especially man... that man always remains the same and cannot go beyond his appointed bounds. As long as we're on this

Earth, we're bound. In other words, we're not going to do anything that's extraordinary that other men and women cannot do. We're men. We're human beings. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

Some people say, "Well, this person did something very new." Well, it may be new to us but it's not something extraordinary that hasn't been done... something extraordinary in the past. Ecclesiastes 3:15 says, *That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*

We look up to people who do what we would consider extraordinary things, but the One we need to be looking at is Jesus Himself and quit worshipping man and start worshipping God.

Notice verse 11 of Ecclesiastes 6 now. *Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?* When we realize there are countless and many things that produce much and increase, we see that it produces more of the same... vanity. It produces nothing. How does this make man better, according to verse 11? Man is still subject to many things which increase the vanity of life. In other words, we fall into a trap of trying to please other people and we try to please ourselves instead of pleasing the one who is really the important One, and that is God.

Ecclesiastes Chapter 6 and the first part of verse 12 says, *For who knoweth what is good for man in this life...* Well, who knows what is the best interest of man in this life, according to verse 12? And the next part of that verse says *all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow?* All the days of his life are empty. He is excessively proud and vain. This is speaking of mankind now, and he

passes through this life like a shadow, an ominous gloom. His life is like a depressing gloom, according to verse 12.

No matter how hard a person tries... and if you'll notice as we read through the book of Ecclesiastes it talks about on the Earth or under the sun and that means on the Earth. That means that everything we do earthly is really going to pass away. It's only those things we do for God that's going to last forever, and we're not going to take anything with us. We've already seen that in our study of Ecclesiastes. You're not going to take it with you no matter how hard you work. No matter how much you have, you're not going to take it with you, so it only makes good common sense. You don't even have to have the spiritual sense to understand this at this point. It's really... you're not going to take it with you. You're going to leave everything behind.

And then when you realize that and you realize that you need something else in this life and you start realizing and you start thinking and realize as the Holy Spirit deals with your heart that you need Jesus Christ as your Savior, and it's only then that we realize that life comes through Jesus Christ.

Speaking of real life, we need to be working for Him. Now, I'm not saying, once again, that we don't work to make a living in this world, and Solomon's already covered that. He says that we need to work and we need to be able to enjoy what we have. We need to be able to even enjoy the work that we do, because everything comes from God... the work, the results, and the ability to enjoy what God has given us in this life. We need to be thankful to God, and when a person gets to that point in their life they're really ready. They've either done it or they're ready to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

"Lord, come into my heart. I receive you as my Savior."

Once again, the Bible says whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. And that's you. That's me. That's everyone in this world who will call upon Jesus Christ to save them, to make them ready for Heaven. Everyone in this life can be saved and on their way to Heaven.

I've dealt with children before and I've told them the same thing, and they pray the prayer, and even at a young age they receive Jesus as Savior. Then I look back and they're sitting there in a childlike likeness. I say, "What are you waiting on?" They say, "I'm ready to go to Heaven," and that's the way really an adult needs to be. We need to be ready and we need to be waiting and we need to be looking for Jesus Christ to come and get us to take us to Heaven, whether it be in death or whether it be in the rapture of the church when He says, "Come up hither" and we're all changed to become like Him in body at that point.

Ecclesiastes 6:12 says, *for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun? Who can tell a man what will happen after him, in other words, on the Earth after he's gone, on this Earth? Who can tell him?*

One person has said this: "Who knoweth what is good for man in this life? And that is, what is it that can satisfy the heart and soul of man? He spendeth all the days of his vain life as a shadow." In other words, it's here for a while and then it's gone. "For who can tell a man who shall be after him under the sun? It is the veil of darkness and despair? Who knoweth? Not the natural man, but the question which man cannot answer God has graciously, blessedly, and eternally answered in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With Peter we, too, cry

out, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.'"

Receive him today as your Lord. Ask Him to come into your heart, and He'll save you. No matter who you are, He'll save you and make you ready for Heaven.

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